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File: USPT

Sep 28, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5958751
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TITLE: .alpha.-galactosidase

DATE-ISSUED: September 28, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 435/208; 435/252.3, 435/320.1, 435/325, 435/419, 536/23.2, 536/24.32

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A substantially purified enzyme selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (b) an enzyme comprising 30 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:4 wherein said enzyme has .alpha.-galactosidase activity.
2. A method for hydrolyzing .alpha.-galactose bonds comprising:
contacting a compound having .alpha.-galactose bonds with an effective amount of a substantially purified enzyme having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
3. An isolated polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
4. An isolated polynucleotide encoding an enzyme having .alpha.-galactosidase activity selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO:3;
 - b) SEQ ID NO:3, wherein T can also be U;
 - c) nucleic acid sequences complementary to SEQ ID NO:3; anda polynucleotide encoding an enzyme comprising 30 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:4 wherein said enzyme has .alpha.-galactosidase activity.
5. An expression vector containing a polynucleotide of claim 3.
6. The expression vector of claim 5, wherein the vector is a plasmid.
7. The expression vector of claim 5, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

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